

# ORCHARD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

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School Web Page <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>

Follow us on Twitter: @OrchardParkPS

Eileen Wise  
Principal

Jennifer Brown  
Vice Principal

December 2013

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE -

As we enter into the last month on our year calendar, the snow has made its appearance and as fun as it is we need to remind children that it needs to be left on the ground. Please make sure your child has hats, mitts, coats and boots to make their time outside enjoyable. All of our milk and hot lunches will continue for the month of December thanks to parent volunteers and student leadership. Please feel free to contact the school anytime you have questions.

Perspective....We all have a perspective or view from our own eyes and lives. From a child's view they are the only ones that get spoken to or "in trouble" when a teacher or administrator redirects them. From a parent's view their child is the only one that ever gets "spoken to or "in trouble". So from my perspective I tracked how many children I spoke to approximately in one day and want to share that information. In one day I redirected 42 children. By that I mean I said, "Walk in the hall please", "You need to tie your shoes," "Put the snow on the ground please," etc., etc. Each of those students think I only spoke to them and when there are groups of people individuals don't know what is said or done with other individuals. As principal I have to respect the privacy of others and so can't share details or information other than the situation is dealt with. Many times that doesn't help your perspective that it appears others are not spoken to. On the personal side you only have to deal with your child and one by one things get better. I must comment that I do appreciate the support I get when I call or talk to parents as we help children make better decisions together.

## CANDY CANE-O-GRAM FUNDRAISER!

Students can send their friends, family or teacher's a personalized candy cane to wish them a special happy holiday.

We will be selling the candy canes the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

Price is .50 cents each



## DECEMBER EVENTS

- 3: MacMillan Orders pick-up  
3 – 6 p.m. only
- 10 - 18: Candy Canes (available lunch & Breaks) for .50
- 11: Holiday Showcase 6:30pm (All are Welcome to attend!!!!)
- 9 - 13: Food Drive Train
- 10 January food orders due
- 18: Holiday House for Kdgn to Gr. 2's
- 19: Holiday (Spirit) Day
- 19: Last day of school
- 20: PA Day (no school for students)

Monday, January 6, 2014: Welcome Back

## SNOW DAYS

The Safe Arrival program is in place in elementary schools to ensure that children arrive safely at school each day. Please be advised that on days when buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, calls will not be made to families whose children ride school transportation. Families of those children who walk to school are asked to report their child's absence to the school as usual if they will not be in attendance.

An effort will be made to call families of walking students who are not present, but on some days, given the number of absent students, this may not be possible.

## MACMILLAN ORDERS

Thanks for sponsoring our MacMillan fundraiser. We trust you enjoyed the delicious food. We raised approximately \$1600.00 and will use the money to support more technology in the school. Congratulations to our top selling family, The McQuaids! Early bird draw winners are: Chole S., Jordan S., Lila H., David F., Breanna M., Ashton & Tristan D., Joseph R., Layne Mc., Liam S., A. Berenguer., Julia F., Brooke F., Destini K., Hunter P. Jordan S., Payge M., Alexis G., Jackson C., Van D., and Michael B., Josh & Jacob C. There are 7 winners of \$25.00 Orillia Mall Gift Certificates: Breanna M.

## PLAYGROUND AREA

Now that winter has "arrived" our playground equipment is closed and out-of-bounds to students before, during and after school. The reason is, of course, a safety precaution. An announcement will be made in the spring when the equipment is available for use.

## Boys' Volleyball Team

Congratulations to our boys' volleyball team who, in their zone tournament, tied for first with Monsignor Lee, but then lost a tight tie-breaker, placing them second in their pool. By finishing in second place the boys qualified to go on to the Area Finals. The coaches were really impressed with the boys' outstanding attitudes, sportsmanship and the giant strides they made in learning and implementing new skills. It was an absolute pleasure to coach this team. Good luck to the boys at the city finals and congratulations to:

Hunter N., Jeremy L., Caleb B., Connor E., Jack M., Brock T., Brett 'The P., Ethan R., Aiden T., Tobin N, our captains Ryan Q. and Jake C.

## JANUARY FOOD ORDERS Due back Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

*Reminder that food orders are  
available on line*

*<http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>*

## Educational Websites and Login/Passwords

### Grolier Encyclopedia

<http://go-kids.grolier.com/>

Login: simcodsb

Password: simc7729

### Tumble Books- E-books and Books that Read Aloud

[www.tumblebooklibrary.com](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com)

Primary/Junior students

Login: scdsb

Password: books

### Junior/Intermediate Students

#### Tumble Book Cloud

Junior/Intermediate students

Login: scdsb

Password: login

### Britannica Encyclopedia

<http://school.eb.com>

login: simcoedsb

password: simc7729

### World Book

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/?subacct=CD28010>

login: scdsb13

password: school

### Learn 360-Educational videos

[www.learn360.com](http://www.learn360.com)

password: yyyymmdd

(Your birthdate in this format)



## OUR SECOND HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE -Dec. 9-13

Our community was so generous when we ran our Thanksgiving Food Drive. But the food banks have a real need for donations at this time of year. The student council will be running a food drive during the week of December 9-13. Students may bring a non-perishable food item to school on any day during that week. We will be putting donated items in a 'Holiday Food Train' in our front hall. Each student that brings in an item will receive house points and intermediate students will receive credit towards their activity points. At the end of the week we will donate all collected food to a local food bank.

## Student Council News

We have a very enthusiastic and hardworking Student Council that was very busy this past term. They organized the Thanksgiving Food Drive, planned and ran the Gr. 7/8 dance, and ran the Remembrance Day Ceremony. Each activity was very well planned and presented, due to their hard work. This term they will organize the Holiday Food Drive, the Holiday House activities for primary students and the Gr. 7/8 Valentine's Dance. On behalf of the whole school: Thank you student council for all your hard work to make our school a great place to learn.

## NO PARKING ZONES

*Now that the winter weather is here, it is very important that the entrance & exit driveways remain clear of vehicles for the safety of our walkers & to allow room for the school buses. This is a reminder that there is NO PARKING on either side of our entrance & exit driveways. Please continue to use our KISS & RIDE program in the morning to drop off your children. You can also park at the Dollarama parking lot & use the crossing guard located on Fittons to meet your children at the end of the day. We appreciate your support for the continue safety of our students.*

## CHESS CLUB

Our junior/intermediate chess clubs are now up and running in the library. All students in grades four to eight are invited to take part, whether they are experienced or just beginning.

## COOKIES AND POPCORN!



Popcorn in several flavors and chocolate chip cookies are available to purchase in the office during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> nutrition breaks for \$1.00 each. Both snack items are approved by the board.



## High School Information Nights

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter! Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night (see full schedule on SCDSB's website here:

### High School Website

<http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Schools/Pages/highschool.aspx>) to Find out what's offered at your local high school. If you can't attend an event, call your local public high school to book an appointment to visit.

### Twitter – in four easy steps!

Twitter is a social media tool that is one of the most popular ways to connect and stay up-to-date. It allows the user to stay current with changing technology, gain quick access to headlines and breaking news and helps connect you with organizations/people you're interested in. Here are a few simple steps to get started on Twitter:

1. Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) or download the app
2. 'Sign up' to create an account and pick a @username
3. Add your photo and bio. Your photo must not be bigger than 700kb and must be a jpg, gif or png file. A photo from a smartphone will work.
4. Follow other users – type a name in the search box and click 'search'. When you find the account you want to follow, click 'follow'.

Don't forget to follow the Simcoe County District School Board on Twitter: @SCDSB\_Schools. Our school is also on Twitter – follow us at @OrchardParkPS

### Getting your news from the source

For parents, it's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and school board. Please feel free to call the school at any time if you have questions or concerns. Here is our school website: <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>. There are also some helpful links on the SCDSB website that may be of interest:

- For information on the dates for the holiday break, P.A. Days and March Break, see the 'School Year Calendars' page here: <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Schools/Pages/School-Year-Calendars.aspx>
- For media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section at: <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/About%20Us/Pages/News.aspx?y=2013>
- For information on Capital Planning topics such as Accommodation Reviews, Attendance Area Reviews, and Facility Partnerships, visit: <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Board/Capital-Planning/Pages/Capital-Planning.aspx>
- Through our newly-launched blog, *Sharing Simcoe* (<http://sharingsimcoe.com/>), we share stories of some of the amazing people involved in our schools. The blog features stories and tips from our own in-house experts, and experts we work with in the community.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: <http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/>. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: <http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/> for bus delay and cancellation updates on those snowy mornings.

### PILLARS parenting and career preparation program

A unique Parenting Program called PILLARS: Parenting Initiative, Lifelong Learning and Resources is offered by the Adult & Continuing Education Department of the SCDSB. The program takes place at the Barrie Learning Centre and the Collingwood Learning Centre on weekday afternoons (Monday to Friday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.) throughout the fall and winter.

The PILLARS program supports single parents aged 25 and under in finishing high school and provides support for transitions that take place afterward. The program offers 12 customized curriculum modules, with the option upon program completion to challenge up to three high school credits.

The program started in late September, but continuous intake is available on a weekly basis. For more information or to register, call the Barrie Learning Centre at 705-725-8360 or the Collingwood Learning Centre at 705-445-9019.

### New website provides math help for parents and students

The Ministry of Education has launched "Mathies" ([www.mathies.ca](http://www.mathies.ca)), a new website designed to help parents support their children in math. The site includes activities, learning tools and games for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

### FYI about the Dec. 20 PA Day

As you know, we have a PA Day scheduled for Dec. 20. Usually on PA Days, teachers are at school participating in professional development. The Dec. 20 day is an unpaid day for teachers required as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between ETFO (and OSSTF) and the Ministry of Education. This means teachers are not expected to be at school that day—our parking lot will be relatively empty. We wanted to make sure you had this information.

# WE WISH EVERYONE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

